

Department of Veterans Affairs

833.103

certified and approved for payment in the field.

[49 FR 12616, Mar. 29, 1984, as amended at 54 FR 40065, Sept. 29, 1989; 63 FR 69221, Dec. 16, 1998]

PART 833—PROTESTS, DISPUTES, APPEALS

Subpart 833.1—Protests

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AUTHORITY: 38 U.S.C. 501 and 40 U.S.C. 486(c).

Subpart 833.1—Protests

833.102 General.

Solicitations shall instruct interested parties (see FAR provision 52.233-2) to deliver a copy of any protest filed with the General Accounting Office (GAO) to the contracting officer and the appropriate Central Office activity as follows:

(a) For contracts to be awarded by the Office of Facilities Management: Chief Facilities Management Officer, Office of Facilities Management, Department of Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20420.

(b) For all other contracts: Deputy Assistant Secretary for Acquisition and Materiel Management, Acquisition Administration Team, Department of Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont Avenue NW., Washington, DC 20420.

[51 FR 23070, June 25, 1986, as amended at 52 FR 28559, July 31, 1987; 54 FR 40065, Sept. 29, 1989; 58 FR 48974, Sept. 21, 1993; 61 FR 11586, Mar. 21, 1996; 63 FR 15318, Mar. 31, 1998]

833.103 Protests to the Department.

(a) *Filing of protests.* (1) An interested party may protest to the contracting officer or, as an alternative, may re-

quest an independent review by filing a protest with the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Acquisition and Materiel Management, Acquisition Administration Team, or, for solicitations issued by the Office of Facilities Management, the Chief Facilities Management Officer, Office of Facilities Management. A protest filed with the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Acquisition and Materiel Management or the Chief Facilities Management Officer will not be considered if the interested party has a protest on the same or similar issues pending with the contracting officer.

(2) Protests must be in writing and addressed as follows:

(i) Contracting officer protests—address where offer/bid is to be submitted;

(ii) Deputy Assistant Secretary for Acquisition and Materiel Management, Acquisition Administration Team, Department of Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20420; or

(iii) Chief Facilities Management Officer, Office of Facilities Management, Department of Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20420.

(3) Protests regarding certain issues may be dismissed by VA without consideration of the merits or forwarded to another agency for appropriate action. Among these protests are the following:

(i) *Contract administration.* The administration of an existing contract is within the discretion of the contracting agency. Disputes between a contractor and the Department are resolved pursuant to the disputes clause of the contract and the Contract Disputes Act of 1978. 41 U.S.C. 601-613.

(ii) *Small business size standards and standard industrial classification.* Challenges of established size standards or the size status of particular firms, and challenges of the selected standard industrial classification are for review solely by the Small Business Administration. 15 U.S.C. 637(b)(6); 13 CFR 121.3-6 (1984).

(iii) *Small business certificate of competency program.* Any referral made to the Small Business Administration pursuant to section 8(b)(7) of the Small